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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections -35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 6-9, 11-16, 22 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Miyazaki. Claims 1 and 6 are cancelled and the rejection of those claims is traversed.

Claim 7 is amended to depend from claim 9, which is in turn amended to incorporate cancelled subject matter of claims 1 and 6. It is respectfully submitted that claim 9, as amended is neither anticipated nor obvious in view of the teachings of Miyazaki.

Miyazaki teaches a method and apparatus for suppressing stimulated Brillouin scattering (SBS) in optical communications system employing wavelength division multiplex, where the intensity of light produced by the light sources can be above the SBS threshold level. This is achieved by providing an apparatus and method for transmitting a wavelength division multiplex signal to an optical fiber transmission line so that the intensity per light signal is higher than an intensity at which SBS occurs. Scramblers are driven using pseudo-random patterns generated by various logic components, such as flip flops. The patterns are described in relation to the number of stages for producing the pattern, in a manner well known in the art (column 9, lines 37-67 and column 10, lines 24-51).

Miyazaki neither teaches nor suggests generating a pseudo-random bit sequences and extracting from the pseudo-random bit sequence, in accordance with a predefined algorithm, a scrambling pattern for each of the neighbouring optical channels so that the extracted scrambling patterns are substantially de-correlated at any given offset, as claim in amended claim 9. The rejection of claims 7-9 and 11-15 which depend therefrom is thereby traversed.

With respect to claims 16, 22 and 25, those claims are cancelled and their rejection is traversed.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-4, 16-19, 24 and 25 as being anticipated by Asahi. Claims 1-4, 16-19, 24 and 25 are cancelled and their rejection is traversed.

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Claim Rejections -35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejected claims 5, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asahi. Claims 5, 20 and 21 are cancelled and their rejection is traversed.

The Office Action rejected claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asahi in view of Miyazaki. Claim 23 has been amended to include the limitations of cancelled claim 16 and, as amended, clearly distinguishes over the teaches of Asahi and Miyazaki and, for reasons explained above in detail, no combination of those references teaches or suggests extracting a scrambling pattern from a pseudo-random bit sequence wherein each scrambling pattern is extracted so that the scrambling patterns for neighbouring channels are de-correlated in any alignment. The rejection of claim 23 is thereby traversed.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowance of claim 10. However, for reasons set forth above in detail, claims 6-15 and 23 are allowable over the prior art made of record.

New claims 26-31 are added to claim the inventive system claimed in claim 23 in further detail. No new matter has been added. Claims 26-31 depend from amended claim 23 and are allowable over the prior art of record for reasons set forth above.

In view of the amendments made to this application, this application is considered to be in a condition for immediate allowance. Favourable reconsideration and earlier issuance of Notice of Allowance are therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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